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MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

NORTH RIVER

UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED WITH

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH,

WALKER COUNTY, ALA.,

FROM 21st TO 24th SEPTEMBER,

1849.

TUSCALOOSA:
PRINTED BY M. D. J. SLADE.
1849.

MINUTES.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1849.

1. The introductory discourse was delivered by Elder David W. Andrews, from the 17th chap. of John, and from the 20th to 22d v. inclusive.

2. After a recess of an hour and a half, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house; prayer by the Moderator.

3. Read the letters from Corresponding Churches, and enrolled the names of the Delegates.

4. Organized the Association by electing Elder D. W. ANDREWS, Moderator, and T. M. GABBERT, Clerk.

5. Correspondence received as follows, viz:

From the Bear Creek Association, letter and minutes, by Elder William Phillips.

From the Chickasaw Association; letter and minutes, but no messenger.

6. Appointed the following committees:

1st. On Arrangement: brethren J. Yerby, W. Richards, A. Deason, H. Yerby, and M. Rainwater, with the Moderator and Clerk.

2d. To arrange Preaching: brethren Stags, Orear, Bowlin, Shelby, and W. Shepherd.

3d. On Documents: Elders B. B. Smith, J. Ray, L. B. Harbin, T. M. Gabbert, and brother J. Shepherd.

4th. On Finance: Elders J. Rushing, A. J. Smith, and bro. E. S. Marquis.

7. Adjourned till to-morrow 8 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Wm. Phillips.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1849.

8. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

9. The committee of Arrangement made their report, which was received, and the committee discharged.

10. Read Constitution, and Rules of Decorum.

11. Extended an invitation to Churches, desirous of uniting with this body: none came forward.

12. Called for the reports of the clerks of Presbyteries, appointed by our last Association, for the purpose of dissolving Ebenezer and Columbia churches.

13. Appointed a committee of Elders William Phillips, Abner Files, brethren John Yerby, Hogan Yerby, and Willis Richards, to examine into the case of Ebenezer church, and report this evening.

14. Called for the report of the committee appointed by our last Association, to meet the Columbus and Aberdeen Associations, for the purpose of adjusting original difficulties, existing between the North River and Tuscaloosa Associations; which was received, and the committee discharged.

15. *Resolved*, That we as an Association, unhesitatingly receive, and adopt, the advice of the above named Council.

16. Received appointments of District meetings, viz:

Second District. The meeting to be held with Hepsebeth church, to commence on Friday before the third Sabbath in September, 1850; El-

der Thomas M. Gabbert to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Abner Files his alternate; also, Elder B. B. Smith to preach a sermon on the duty of Ministers and Deacons, on Sabbath, at 11 o'clock, and Elder Lewis B Harbin his alternate.

Third District. The meeting to be held with Pilgrim's Rest church, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1850; Elder Richard Walden to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Joel [illegible] his alternate.

Fourth District. The meeting to be held with Zion church, to commence on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in July, 1850; Elder Allen J. Smith to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder James Ray his alternate; also, Elder Thomas M. Gabbert to preach a sermon on the duty of churches to ministers, on Sabbath, at 11 o'clock, and Elder Abner Files his alternate.

17. Called for the Circular Letter, which was read, received, and ordered to be affixed to the Minutes of the present session of this body.

18. Appointed the next annual session of this body to be held with Salem church, Tuscaloosa county, to commence on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1850; and that Elder David W. Andrews be appointed to preach the anniversary sermon, and elder B. B. Smith alternate.

19. Appointed Elder B. B. Smith to preach a missionary sermon at 11 o'clock, on Sabbath, of our next Association, and Elder David W. Andrews his alternate.

20. Appointed brother John Yerby to prepare a Circular Letter, (with the liberty of choosing his own subject,) and present the same to the next annual session of this body.

24. Returned correspondence as follows, viz:

To Bear Creek—Elders J. Rushing, J. Ray, and brethren R. H. Poe, D. G. Kirkland, and J. Gosey; brother W. Richards to write the letter.

To Chickasaw—Elders B B. Smith, D. W. Andrews, and brethren J. W. McHorse, E. Chaffin, D. Davis, D. Baker, and R. H. Poe; brother J. Yerby to write the letter.

22. On motion, adjourned for one hour.

23. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the moderator.

24. The committee to whom was referred the case of Ebenezer church, beg leave to report as follows:

We believe that the Association did wrong, in the appointment of a Presbytery, without a written petition from the churches; and we advise her to rescind her act; and that all previous actions of the church, or presbytery, shall be null and void.

All of which we respectfully submit. WM. PHILLIPS, Chairman.

25. An act of last year, which was omitted to be put in the minutes:

Resolved, That a Presbytery be appointed of Elders Wm Phillips and Lewis B. Harbin, to dissolve Ebenezer church.

26. *Resolved,* That the Association rescind her act contained in the above resolution.

27. Adjourned till 8 o'clock Monday morning; prayer by Elder J. Rushing.

SABBATH.

The Missionary Sermon was delivered by Elder William Phillips, from the 14th verse of the 24th chapter of Mathew, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come,"—to a large and attentive congregation; the fruit of which shall be gathered up in the morning of eternity.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 24.

28. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder B. B. Smith.

29. Called the names of the Delegates, and marked absentees.

30. The committee on Documents reported as follows:

Having received a communication from Mount Pleasant church, stating that Josiah Winter, stands as an excluded minister from that church; and being informed that he is pursuing a disorganizing course in the churches:

Resolved, That we spread him on our minutes, as excluded from our fellowship for gross immorality.

B. B. SMITH, Chairman.

31. *Resolved*, That we deem it disorderly in the churches in our union to invite ministers to exercise in public with them, who have been excluded, and not restored.

32. *Resolved*, That we alter the third article of our Constitution, so as to read as follows:

We declare ourselves a Missionary body on the following plan. The Association may appoint an Executive committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a missionary or missionaries to travel and preach the Gospel to the destitute in her bounds; and to enlarge their field of labor, if necessary; and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a treasurer, to take charge of all moneys paid over by the several churches for the support of the Domestic Mission; also, said treasurer shall make a correct report, at each and every annual session of this body, of all the moneys received, expenditures, and the surplus on hand, if any; which Report shall be affixed to the Minutes of the Association.

33. *Resolved*, That we appoint an Executive committee, to be composed of brethren Daniel G. Kirkland, Livingston Bobo, William S. Shepherd, R. H. Poe, and Miles Rainwater.

34. Called for the reading of Corresponding Letters: read and received.

35. *Resolved*, That the Association advise the churches in our union, to appoint one or more brethren to visit all the families in the neighborhood of their respective churches, to take up collections, either by cash or subscriptions, for the support of our Domestic Missions.

36. *Resolved*, That we, as an Association, highly approve of the firm and energetic course pursued by brother J. R. Graves, editor of Tennessee Baptist, in the defence of Baptist principles in the South, and we recommend our brethren to patronize the Tennessee Baptist, and Alabama Baptist Advocate, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of the editors of the above named papers.

37. The Association adjourned until 5 o'clock.

38. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

39. The committee on Finance reported as follows: For printing Minutes $20; for Associational purposes, $10.

41. *Resolved*, That the brother Clerk have ten dollars for his services.

42. *Resolved*, That the brother Clerk have as many copies printed, as he can for the money sent.

42. Appointed the following Distributing Agents: 1st District, Thomas

M. Gabbert; 2d District, Lewis B. Harbin; 3d District, Joel Rushing; 4th District, Jacob Lindley.

43. Columbia church dissolved by a unanimous voice of the church.

44. Appointments of the Executive board for 1850: 1st. Elders Richard Walden and Thomas M. Gabbert to labor at Bethlehem, Salem, Liberty, and Pine Grove churches. 2d. Elders Joel Rushing and A. J. Smith to labor at Mount Joy, New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Ebenezer, and Fair View churches. 3d. Elders David W. Andrews and Jacob Lindly to labor at Hepsebeth, Union, Shepherd, and Macedonia churches. 4th. Elders Jesse Walden and Abner Files to labor at Mount Pleasant, Pilgrim's Rest, Camp Spring, and Pleasant Hill churches. 5th. Elders B. B. Smith and Lewis B. Harbin to labor at Antioch, New Prospect, and Bethel churches. 6th. Elders James A. Jones and James Ray to labor at Zion and Shady Grove. All the labors to commence about the first of July, 1850.

45. Appointed the next meeting of the Executive Board to be held at Pilgrim's Rest church, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in March, 1850.

46. Treasurer's Report:

By [illegible] up to this time,	$70 90	To amount paid A. J. Smith,	$52 50
By [illegible] on hand of last year,	8 00	Deduct amount of subscription,	52 50
By [illegible] at District meeting,	3 45		
By [illegible] at present session,	19 15		$105 00
By [illegible] subscription,	52 50	Cash in hand,	50 00
	$155 00		$155 00

47. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the members of Pleasant Grove church, and to the community in general, for the kindness and hospitality shown to us during the present session.

The business having been completed, after singing and prayer, the brethren bade each other an affectionate farewell.

DAVID W. ANDREWS, Moderator.

THOMAS M. GABBERT, Clerk.

The next annual session of the Bear Creek Association will be held with the Macedonia church, Franklin county, Ala.; to commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1850.

The next annual session of the Chickasaw Association will be held with the Amaziah church, Tippah county, Miss,; to commence on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1850.

CIRCULAR.

DEAR BRETHREN:—With diffidence, and a sense of my own unworthiness, do I attempt to comply with the duty imposed on me, at your last session, to write the circular letter, and permiting me to choose the subject. After serious meditation on the present languid state of Zion, and the coldness manifested by our members; and thinking that we need something to stir us up to duty, I have thought that no subject would be more suitable than that of Prayer. And to give the subject the place it richly deserves, I shall notice it, 1st, as a duty; and 2dly, as a *[illegible]orn privilege.* And to do so, will refer back to the days of our [illegible]rs, to shew in what light they viewed it. God established [illegible] duty. Gen.

20, 7, and 17th. David undertood it as such—1 Samuel, 7—2 Samuel 7 and 27; and so did Job; see 21st c. 15 and 42-8th—and all the prophets down to Malachi speak of the duty of prayer. It would be tedious to enumerate all the instances where the ancient Saints in the discharge of that duty, were met and blessed of God. Witness the Hebrew children, Daniel, and Elijah, and a host of Saints of which the Bible is full and confirmatory. We will next notice in what light the apostles viewed the matter; and we are forced to admit that they too believed it was their duty; for their Lord had set them an example, and was often found on His knees, in that most humble posture, presenting himself before His Father. And when we consider the importance of His mission, (sent of God) that of the Salvation of the world, we are constrained to sanction and follow His examples, and being presented by Him, the only lawgiver in Zion, both by precept and example, it must necessarily follow as a duty. As His subjects we are bound to obey all the commands which abound in the volume of inspiration. Finding Him so often engaged in prayer to His Heavenly Father, pleading that He would not leave nor forsake Him, we naturally conclude that we are bound to obey. If there was need of His praying to His Father, how much more have we need of divine aid. He has told us that "without me ye can do nothing;" and in order to pray acceptably before God, we must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him: therefore the necessity of coming boldly to a throne of Grace. That it is a duty no one can doubt, for He has commanded us to pray always, lifting holy hands without wrath or doubting.

Having alluded to the first branch of our subject, in a brief and imperfect manner, we now come to speak of the Second part, that it is a great and heaven-born privilege, to approach a Throne of God's rich and free Grace, and that boldly too. My dear Brethren, it is a great matter of astonishment that we are so loath to approach that God who has been so good and kind as to make all provision for us; but while we parley with the flesh it is not so much to be wondered at: for it is human nature; but seeing that we have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man which is Christ, we should no longer be subject to the flesh. And we should consider the Apostles, who regarded it so great a duty, and so delightful a service to God, that it seems to have grown from duty to a privilege or blessing. Now when we consider the many difficulties and dangers that we are exposed to in this world, and that there is none to deliver us but God; and that Christ our advocate liveth to make intercession for us, we still wonder how it can be that we are satisfied to live so far from God, who alone can drive away form us those thick clouds which hang around and darken, and every thing that hinders a free intercourse between Him and our souls. Why should we desire to live any longer in this cold and dying state, when we observe that all the Apostles seemed to delight and rejoice in the service of God, and that they might be counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ. Shall we not then, take courage, and rather rejoice that we have such a glorious High Priest, who is touched with a feeling for our infirmities, and was in all points tempted as we are.

Now dear brethren, suffer a word of exhortation, which is desired to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance; not because you know not these things, but because you do know them. Brethren, if we desire the precious cause of Christ to prosper among us; and I doubt not, all do, then let me remind you of the great necessity of fervent prayer at this time, and at all times. But my desire is, that you should view it more as a privilege; for though it be a duty, we may live in the discharge of that duty until it will become so delightful as to esteem it one of the greatest privileges we have on earth, to be permitted, to approach Him in the name of Christ. Brethren, ask yourselves the question, what would you take for these precious privileges! Oh, brethren, let us strive to stir up one another to love and good works; let us strive to excel in every word and work. Let us, as members of the different churches, stir up our brethren and sisters, to attend our meetings better, and pray that God would again bless us as in days past, when the candle of the Lord shone on us. Brethren, one and all, let us come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty; let us draw nigh to God that he may draw nigh to us. Let us live much on our knees, and prove how good it is to live near to God, to draw the sweet consolations of the Holy Spirit, and show to all around that there is a blessed reality in the religion of Christ; and by so doing, constrain them to praise and glorify God. We believe that God is the same unchangeable being; and therefore we are spared and permitted to fill our place on earth, his footstool.

Brethren, prayer is much needed, and too much neglected. Christ expects better things of us, after he has done so much for us; it is not right or reasonable that he should: may we not expect and that justly too, that he will ask us the same important question that he did his disciples, Will ye also go back? Brethren, let us fear that after we have preached to others, we ourselves may be castaways; for if God spared not them that sinned; (and neglect of duty is sin) how shall we escape if we neglect those duties. These things ought not to be so. Whatever we find to do, let us do with all our might. Let us choose this day whom we will serve; for we cannot serve two masters.

I fear that we have all become too much cumbered about with the things of this world, and by that means, have neglected more weighty matters. We have all eat and drank, and rose up, and gone to play. Brethren, there is much to do, and the day is far spent, and the night cometh when no man can work; therefore, let us be up and a doing while it is called to day. And now, Brethren, having spoken of the duties and privileges of prayer, in conclusion, let me exhort you to a faitful discharge of this most important duty, if you wish to enjoy peace and communoin with God and each other. Pray much, and pray fervently: if you desire the prosperity of the church, and the conversion of sinners, do not neglect to pray. If you wish your ministers to be profitable to you, and successful in winning souls to Christ, pray for them too; and finally, brethrea, if you desire the conversion of the world, we must pray, O pray unceasingly. May we all live in peace and brotherly love, and worthy of our high calling and at last, with all the sanctified, be saved in Heaven, is the prayer of your unworthy brother in Christ.

W. RICHARDS.

NORTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—DELEGATES, STATISTICS, CONTRIBUTIONS, PASTORS &c.

	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES	POST-OFF'E.	ORDAINED MINISTER	No.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec. by L	secession	Restored.	Dismiss'd	Excluded	Dead...	Total....	Contributed for M	Contr. for Associa'n
4th District. Third District. Second Dist. First Dist.	Bethlehem,	Tus'ca	Oregonia,	A Files, T M Gabbert	1	Gentry, T. M. Gabbert, A. Files,	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	38	1 40	43
	Salem,	do	New Lex'n,	.....	2	G. Doon, W. Richards, G. Hocut,	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	64	1 10	1 00
	Liberty,	do	Northport,	A. J. Smith,	4	A. Deason, J. Yerby, A. J. Smith,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	1 20	50
	Macedonia,	do	do	.....	4	Not represented,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	....	....
	Pine Grove,	do	do	.....	2	J. Shelby, J. Deason,* G. B Phillips,*	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	10	57	37
	Hepsebeth,	Fay'te,	Sheffield,	.....	4	A. Lawrence, S. Baker, J. W. Roby,	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	15	40	....
	Mount Joy,	do	do	L. B. Harbin,	2	L. B. Harbin, R. Pendley, J. W. McHorse,	..	2	1	1	1	..	..	16	85	50
	New Hope,	Walk'r	York,	.....	4	D. Davis, J. Files, R. Mounts,	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	21	....	....
	Pleasant Gr'e,	do	Jasper,	B. B. Smith,	2	D. R. Baker, B. B. Smith, A. Keeton	6	..	..	..	3	4	..	65	1 25	1 00
	Ebenezer,	do	York,	J. A. Jones,	3	T. Williamson. J. A. Jones, G. C. Jones,	..	..	..	1	7	..	..	12	1 00	50
	Fair View,	Tusc'a	Oregonia,	.....	3	T. Swindle,* E. S. Marques, G. W. Barker,*	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	21	85	....
	Shepherd,	Fay'te,	Fayetteville	.....	2	J. Savage,* J. Shepherd, W. S. Shropshire,	..	2	..	..	8	1	1	133	2 20	50
	Union,	do	Davis's cr'k,	J. Ray,	1	R. H. Poe, W. Farquhar,* J. Ray,	3	2	..	1	4	2	..	73	1 40	50
	Mt. Pleasant,	do	Fayetteville	.....	3	A. Wallis,* D. Davis, E. B. Threat,	..	2	..	..	5	1	..	17	55	....
	Pilgrim's Rest	do	do	J. Rushing,	4	H. Yerby, D. G. Kirkland, J. Rushing,	23	2	..	..	7	4	1	74	1 85	85
	Camp Spring,	do	do	R. Walden,	1	R. Walden, L. Bobo, M. Rainwater,	3	1	..	..	1	2	..	30	1 65	55
	Pleasant Hill,	do	Millport,	.....	2	Not represented	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	....	....
	New Prospect	Miss'i.	Athens,	D Andrews, J Walden	2	D W Andrews, J M. Hargroves, J. Walden*	5	1	..	..	1	..	..	41	60	50
	Bethel,	Monr'e	Quincy,	.....	3	Not represented	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	....	....
	Shady Grove,	Marion	Toll Gate,	.....	4	E. G. Terrell,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	95	50
	Zion,	do	Pikeville,	.....	4	R. Adkins, R. Bowlan, A. Markham,	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	66	1 10	50
	Antioch,	do	Moscow,	J. Lindley,	1	J. Lindley, E. Chaffin, J. W. Gosee,	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	16	70	20
						Absentees * Total	46	17	2	3	50	21	5	851	19.62	8 40

Licentiates—G. Travis, Union church, and E. Chaffin, Antioch church.

Received of Thomas M. Gabbert $20 for printing these Minutes. October 17, 1849. M. D. J. SLADE.